

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action indicates that applicants' reply filed on 12/11/2006 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In the response dated 12/11/2006, applicants elected a species with respect to monomers a, b and c. The instant Office Action correctly notes that for monomer a, a species was elected in which R and R⁰ are C₅ alkyl. The instant Office Action also correctly notes that in claim 2, the defined vinylactam or alkylvinylactam monomer contains R and R⁰ substituents that are independently H or a C₁-C₅ alkyl, with the proviso that at least one of R and R⁰ is H.

The instant Office Action proceeds to request applicants to define R and R⁰ for monomer a "which complies with claim 2 requirements". However, applicants do not believe that this is necessary in order to fully comply with the election requirement. In particular, the comonomer depicted on page 4 of applicants' specification contains R and R⁰ substituents which are defined as being independently H or a C₁-C₅ alkyl. This definition does not contain the proviso set forth in claim 2. Therefore, applicants' election is amply supported by the instant specification. Accordingly, the election is believed to be appropriate and responsive, although it is noted that claims 2 and 3 do not read on such elected species.

Notwithstanding the above, in the event that the Examiner continues to maintain that applicants' previous election is not fully responsive, then applicants hereby elect the earlier elected species, but wherein in monomer a R⁰ is H and R is C₅ alkyl.

In the event that the Examiner has any questions concerning this response, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$450 for the two month extension of time to Deposit Account No. 07-0650. Authorization is also given to charge any additional fees that may be required or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 07-0650.

Respectfully requested,

June 08, 2007
Date

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